



# News from Village Hall



Fall 2012

## From The Desk Of The Village President

Fellow Residents:

This month I will cover some discussion on threats to our environment and ground water via an East Dundee project, some information on how our zoning code works, some information about employee benefits and union issues, and an update of the Village's financial health.

**East Dundee Wrecked Car Facility:** Recently, the Village of East Dundee has proposed an auto salvage yard adjacent to Barrington Hills along our south west border, and adjacent to homes on Pond Gate Drive. The facility is to be owned and operated by Insurance Auto Auction & Adesa Auto Auction.

These are sister companies that locate together. Insurance Auto Auction is a company that takes cars that are 'totaled' by insurance companies and sells them for repair (mostly in foreign countries via internet) or parts. Adesa is a wholesale used car auto auction service. Both of these businesses will be located on 88 acres of reclaimed gravel mines in Cook County (which is part of East Dundee). These will be assisted with a newly created TIF District. East Dundee stands to receive millions of dollars in tax monies from this operation.

The site is proposed to host thousands of damaged cars per year on a rotating basis. These vehicles will be leaking oil, gasoline, diesel fuel, brake fluids, ethylene glycol and



**President Abboud with Deputy Chief Rich Semelsberger and Truck Enforcement Officer Gary Hammelmann**

other coolants, methyl tertiary butyl ether, battery acids, engine and gear oils, transmission fluids, hydraulic fluids, as well as leachates from vehicle components and unknown contaminants which may have been cargo on board these vehicles.

While there are a large number of surface issues that concern us greatly with this project – noise, lighting, unsightliness, storm water, etc. – the most significant

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## Burn Ban Lifted

Recent weather events have set the Chicago region on a trend of recovering the ground moisture absent through most of the summer drought. Therefore, the Village of Barrington Hills has lifted the open burning ban that was in effect earlier; however, the Village strongly encourages residents to exercise additional caution due to those drought conditions and burn in open spaces.

Residents are reminded that the Village Ordinance permits only one fire no larger than 5' by 5' by 5', with a duration no longer than 3 hours in any 24 hour period and requires fires be located no less than 100' from any structure. Open burning must be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished and an extinguisher or other method of extinguishment must be present. Residents are encouraged to review the ordinance prior to commencing any burn.



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concern is the contamination of ground water and wet lands in Barrington Hills and the Cook County Spring Creek Forest Preserve. The proposed site is scheduled to have a "semi-permeable" base. This suggests that storm water leaching of contaminants, as well as direct release of contaminants can migrate to our ground water supply and into the Cook County Spring Creek Forest Preserve. The shallow aquifer ground water in that area has a very high migration rate and can easily transport contaminants. These contaminants threaten human health, the health of flora and fauna, and property values in Barrington Hills and the Forest Preserve. Understanding the nature of the aquifer in Barrington Hills and surrounding communities, this proposed facility represents a threat to wells in the entire Barrington Hills area.

It is notable that IAA is already a defendant in a US EPA Super Fund Site in Washington State and readily admits in its annual report: *"....are currently investigating or remediating, contamination resulting from various sources, including gasoline, fuel additives (such as methyl tertiary butyl ether, or MTBE), motor oil, petroleum products and other hazardous materials released from aboveground or underground storage tanks or in connection with current or former operations conducted at our facilities. In certain instances, contamination has migrated to nearby properties, resulting in claims from private parties. We have incurred and may in the future incur expenditures relating to releases of hazardous materials, investigative, remedial or corrective actions, claims by third parties and other environmental issues, and such expenditures, individually or in the aggregate, could be significant."* The company currently carries \$1.81B in debt with less than \$130M in available credit line. This is further indication that they may not be prepared to resolve future contamination in our community should it occur.

You might ask 'How can this facility be built under EPA laws and regulations?'. Over the last decade, we have weakened, relaxed, or removed entirely US and IL EPA regulations relating to many business activities, in particular those which are designed to prevent initial contamination of ground and surface waters. Thus, much of the regulatory protection is focused on post contamination actions and requirements. Unfortunately, ground water contamination is extremely hard to remediate once contamination has occurred. A number of communities in the Chicago region are struggling with remediation efforts resulting from decisions they made years ago, typically to promote commercial activity.

Fortunately, the Village of Barrington Hills and BACOG have developed a large library of knowledge about ground water, surface water, and the geology of our area. This information will be pivotal in our efforts to prevent this facility from being developed in its present form and threatening our area. The Village is currently working with East Dundee, our neighboring communities, our elected representatives, and residents to eliminate this threat to our environment. This is a very serious threat to our community, and at the moment, there is no impediment to this project moving forward.

**Zoning and Horses:** As many of you know the changes to our zoning code that were proposed earlier this year were rejected by the ZBA. I want to thank all the ZBA members, our staff, and all those who commented on this issue for all their hard work. I know there were people on both sides of this proposed change. For my part, I feel the current code sufficiently addresses horse boarding and the protection of both human and animal health, and neighboring property owners. It is important to understand that zoning and building codes work as a layered system. Rarely is any activity or structure covered by a single regulation in the Village. Many activities, including horse boarding, are covered by multiple Village regulations and county, state, and federal regulations as well. As a result of this layered regulation, the Village has maintained efficient control over equestrian and boarding activities for many decades. The Village continues to promote equestrian activities as part of its brand and to help protect 5-acre zoning into the future.

**Employee Pensions, Benefits, and Union Issues:** Much has been made of public employee compensation nationally in recent years. The Village continues to ensure that our total employee compensation is in line with market compensation values. However, it is valuable to recognize that certain employee sectors have different needs than typical business office workers. For example, our police officers have more risk of injuries from slips and falls as they are constantly getting in and out of cars in all types of weather. So direct comparison of individual coverage or compensation items to the business community is not always appropriate. This is why the Village looks not only at individual items but also total coverage.

As I discussed in previous newsletters, the Village patrol officers unionized in 2009. Since then, the Village has gone through negotiation, mediation, and is currently in arbitration with the union – the Metropolitan Alliance of Police (MAP) - regarding the development of their first contract. MAP is negotiating for the officers, and it is not the officers themselves present in negotiation. The Village's position is that MAP has not been sensitive to the concerns of the Village residents relative to operational costs, salaries, benefits, and associated impacts on property taxes. The Village will continue to hold the line on costs, management control, pension, and benefits.

The Village's two pension programs, the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF), and the BH Police Pension Fund (PPF), are well managed and well funded. The Village continues to work through our COG's (BACOG, MCC, NWMCC, MCC, etc.) to ensure that pension reform is beneficial and that legislation is not passed that hurts the Village and exposes the tax payers to more costs.

Recently, the Village began participating in discussions with the labor unions to reduce the requirement of so-called 'prevailing wage'. This will allow the Village to reduce its costs associated with mowing and landscaping. This effort is being pursued through the McHenry County Council of Governments (MCCOG), and our other municipal jurisdictions. The municipalities have tentatively

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reached an agreement substantially reducing our 2013 landscaping and mowing costs.

**2013 Property Taxes:** As I mentioned in past newsletters, I do not expect an increase in Village property tax levy for 2013. The Village has not raised property tax levy since 2009 and has always maintained a balanced budget. This will be the 5th year in the last 10 that we have lowered or kept property taxes the same. This represents an average tax rate increase well below the rate of inflation over the last 10 years. The Village has not raised property tax levy since December 2009.

I want to encourage you to take full advantage of the Village WEB site, [www.BarringtonHills-IL.gov](http://www.BarringtonHills-IL.gov). Here you will find all the Village communication, meeting schedules, a fully searchable version of the Village Code, and all the latest happenings within the Village. I would like your feedback on how we can make this WEB site more useful

to you.

I encourage you to continue to communicate directly with me and the Trustees. I invite you to attend our regular Board and committee meetings and get involved. There are still slots available on several committees and I am always looking for more volunteers. We need your feedback and ideas. I can be reached directly either by e-mail or phone and I look forward to hearing from you.

Best Regards,



Robert G. Abboud  
President, Village of Barrington Hills  
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[President@BarringtonHills-IL.gov](mailto:President@BarringtonHills-IL.gov)



## Barrington Hills Police Department

The Barrington Hills Police Department received a citizen report of a possible cougar sighting. The reported sighting was at 10:00 am on Friday September 7th in the area of Oak Knoll and Old Hart Roads.

Responding Officers thoroughly checked the area but were unable to confirm the sighting. Cougars are not known to populate this area, however Chicago Police were forced to shoot and kill a cougar found roaming the North Side of the city in April of 2008.

The reported Barrington Hills sighting has not been confirmed with prints or other evidence; however residents are encouraged to be aware of the situation.

The Barrington Hills Police Department has advised the Illinois Department of Natural Resources of this possible sighting and will continue to monitor the situation.

The cougar, also known as puma or mountain lion, is the among the largest cats native to the Americas. The cougar stalks its prey, and usually hunts at night or at dawn and dusk. They pursue a wide variety of prey such as deer, coyotes and raccoons, as well as domestic cattle, horses and sheep. An adaptable species, the cougar is found in a variety of habitats, but prefers dense underbrush and rocky terrain. The cougar is territorial and lives at low population densities. It is a reclusive cat and usually avoids people.

Cougars generally reside in the western United States and Florida. However, in recent decades, breeding populations have moved east into the Dakotas, Nebraska, and Oklahoma. Transient males have been verified in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Michigan, Texas and Illinois.

The DNR web site advises there are no sustained populations of cougars in Illinois; however, young cougars have been known to pass through the Midwest after being pushed out of their original range. These animals generally avoid populated areas and may be here looking for food.

Deterrents for cougars include dogs, bright lights, flashing white lights, and music. In addition, do not feed wildlife, especially deer and raccoons.





## TRUSTEE UPDATE—

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**Patty Meroni**

**Roads and Bridges**  
[pmeroni@barringtonhills-il.gov](mailto:pmeroni@barringtonhills-il.gov)

As September and cooler days arrive, we are struck by the stark contrast of 2011's summer storms and flooding rains to this years' searing heat and drought. One advantage for roads and bridges crews was the chance to assess damage from the previous few years' excessive precipitation and damaging storms.

The 2012 Road Construction Program has been completed with Dundee Lane, Caesar Drive, Dana Lane, and Braeburn Road having been resurfaced. Extensive drainage work and culvert replacements were completed on Caesar Drive, Dundee Lane, Braeburn and Steeplechase Road. Major patching and treatment with a new product to prolong the life expectancy of the pavement were completed on Steeplechase and Cross Timber.

In addition, as a part of the preliminary engineering for the Cuba Road bridge replacement which is required under federal safety guidelines as the existing bridge dates from 1920, Cuba Township cleared heavy roadside growth along Cuba Road. This has provided vastly improved sight lines for motorists at the bridge and intersection.

Additionally, IDOT has required a 10 ton weight limit be posted on the Bridge which will remain in place until the completion of the new bridge in the late summer of 2015.

In an attempt to avoid future delays and frustration for residents, an agreement was reached with the Cuba Township Road Commissioner to utilize the same communication system for summer storms that is in place for snow storms. Residents are advised to call the Barrington Hills Police Department if there are trees down and blocking roads. This information will be passed on to Cuba Township, which will clear the roads to allow emergency and repair personnel access. This should greatly reduce delays and frustration for residents.

While the village tries to see everything that needs repair or attention, with our 100 miles of roads (including village, county, state, and private), sometimes there are things that are missed. Please contact the village if you have any concerns.

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**Elaine M. Ramesh**

**Planning**  
[eramesh@barringtonhills-il.gov](mailto:eramesh@barringtonhills-il.gov)

This article focuses on updates and information related to Cook County. The Cook County portion of Barrington Hills is within the Cook County Board's District 14, and is represented by Gregg Goslin ([www.commissionergoslin.com](http://www.commissionergoslin.com)). Note that because of the re-districting process, our residents will become members of District 15 for the 2014 election cycle and beyond. For residents who would like to appeal their assessment, procedural information can be found at [www.cookcountyassessor.com](http://www.cookcountyassessor.com). As of this year, Cook County has begun streaming live video of their board meetings on-line. To watch board meeting live, go to [www.cookcountylil.gov/secretarytotheboard](http://www.cookcountylil.gov/secretarytotheboard). If you live in Cook County there are plenty of opportunities for you to get involved as a volunteer on a board or commission. To review current openings, see [www.cookcountygov.com/appointments](http://www.cookcountygov.com/appointments).

The Cook County Forest Preserve will hold a public meeting September 19 to discuss the feedback gathered from their recent open house, focus group meetings and an on-line survey about the Recreational Master Plan. The Plan will provide the District with a blueprint for how to enhance existing recreational opportunities and identify new ones compatible with the Forest Preserve's mission. Please check the website ([www.fpdcc.com](http://www.fpdcc.com)) for the time and place of the meeting. The Cook County Forest Preserve continues a program of expanding land holdings, as they have purchased two parcels of land in Barrington Hills during the past year. One is a small parcel on Bateman Rd adjacent to the Forest Preserve and the other is along Algonquin Rd just east of Bateman Rd on the south side.

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**Fritz Gohl**

**Public Safety**  
[fgohl@barringtonhills-il.gov](mailto:fgohl@barringtonhills-il.gov)

### Home Security

Do not post on your Facebook page when you are going on vacation. Also, you should notify the police department and be placed on a house watch list. We provide extra patrols and check your home while you are away. Always set your alarm, if you have one, and make sure all the doors and windows are locked. Have your mail and newspapers stopped and use timers for lights to avoid letting potential burglars know you are away. Have any packages picked up by a neighbor or key holder.

### School

School is back in session, be alert. Remember, it is against the law to use your cell phone or text in a school zone.

# TRUSTEE UPDATE—

**Karen S. Selman**

**Finance**  
kselman@barringtonhills-il.gov

## Budget Process Begins, Pencil Sharpen

The 2013 budget building process has begun. The Village operates its annual budget on a calendar year (January-December). At the August 27, 2012 Board of Trustees Meeting, budget request worksheets were distributed to the Trustees. They will work with their assigned Committees to review their departmental expenditures and will submit committee proposals and forecasts to the Village Treasurer. Vendors will be contacted to query on projected costs for the following year.

The Finance Committee is scheduled to meet in October to review submittals by the Committee Chairs. Each submittal is publically reviewed to reach a balance. The proposed budget is then presented for approval to the Board of Trustees. If accepted, the levy which sets the property tax will get adopted at the December Board of Trustees meeting.

**Harold "Skip" Gianopulos**

**Insurance, Health, Environment, Building & Grounds**  
sgianopulos@barringtonhills-il.gov

## Make A Difference Day

Our next Roadside Trash Pick Up Day will be held on Saturday October 27th. Registration and a tailgate breakfast will begin at 8:30. After a brief safety talk by Barrington Hills Police Department, volunteers will receive safety vests, garbage bags, team and road assignments. Volunteers under the age of 12 need a parent or guardian present and all volunteers under age 16 need a parent or guardian signature. Please dress according to weather conditions. For more information, please contact Village Hall at (847) 551-3000 or email [green@barringtonhills-il.gov](mailto:green@barringtonhills-il.gov).

## New Technology at Village Hall

If you have not been to Village Hall recently, you will notice a few changes to the MacArthur Room. In an effort to increase transparency in Village government, microphones have been installed at each seating area around the table at the front of the room. With this new technology, public meetings that are held in the MacArthur Room will be recorded and the audio recording will be available on the Village website at [www.barringtonhills-il.gov/archive/vboard/recordings/archive.htm](http://www.barringtonhills-il.gov/archive/vboard/recordings/archive.htm). In addition to the meeting being recorded and available to the public, it will also be easier for residents to hear what is being discussed as the audio content will be amplified inside the MacArthur Room and in the overflow seating area immediately outside the meeting room.

## Celebrating Our Rich Heritage

It is July 1st, 2012, and I can imagine myself in this exact place near the corner of Old Sutton and Algonquin in the spring of 1872, when Barrington men and women volunteered to serve in the Civil War. Now, the site is home to a Korean church with a cemetery just beyond, surrounded by a fence to offer a symbolic protection of those resting within.

But 140 years ago, 91 citizens mustered here in this area formerly known as Miller's Grove. They were young, middle-age, some even old enough to be grandparents, with most of them untrained in the ways of war, innocent to the horrors that they would soon encounter face-to-face. This is where they gathered, to report to fight a war that lasted longer than expected and claimed 620,000 lives.

A soft, cool breeze is blowing through the small crowd gathered for a ceremony next to the cemetery where many citizen-volunteers also returned after the end of the Civil War. Their return was generally not in pomp and glory, though victory was theirs. Survivors were weary to the bone, dressed in patched and re-patched dirty tatters of clothing, and they were hungry and thirsty. Others were not so lucky, and came back to live permanently in this spot.

On this sunny summer afternoon, we are remembering and honoring the fallen soldiers whose remains lie in this graveyard. Their names are engraved on a brass plaque secured by a large boulder in this garden near the church.

The ceremony begins with presentation of arms, posting of the colors by raising the American flag, followed with a trumpet playing softly in the background, with local veterans of more recent wars serving in this humble pageantry. There is a hush over the crowd, with some standing, others seated.



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## TRUSTEE UPDATE—

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Out of this quiet setting a rich, strong but controlled voice lifts the words of the Civil War-era hymn "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory of the Coming of the Lord" into the air; an African-American woman stands before us singing the powerful emotions and feelings of that time. The irony of this is manifold, as the Civil War, while fought for many economic and political reasons, symbolically and actually stood against the evils of slavery, then common in the United States and in many other countries of the world. It was a war that determined the direction this country would go, both economically and also eventually in human rights related to the issue of slavery.

The names of the soldiers were then spoken solemnly by the veterans who presented and raised the colors. We heard about Jane A. Robinson, the only woman who signed on as a nurse in these parts. August Riecke spoke of his relatives, who served in the War, and of their descendants' devotion to using the land settled in the Barrington area and its surrounds. Nathan Squires and Nathan Squires Jr.'s names were read, father and son mustering together.

Then, the veterans present in the audience and serving in the ceremony were called on to acknowledge themselves and their service. A benediction was offered asking for "...peace that passes all understanding..." which the minister prayed all men and women would come to know. He also expressed gratitude for the service and sacrifice for those who were here long ago.

As the meeting ended, people waited for veterans of all ages to make their way first, a very small honor offered to them this day. Small groups of people gathered and remarks were overheard about the beauty of the ceremony and the importance of remembering. Then the cemetery became quiet again as people drove off to their homes and plans. Perhaps next year and in the years following we will continue our ceremonies to learn more about those who sacrificed for us long ago, and to remember.

Dan Mjolsness



### Joseph Messer

Zoning Board of Appeals  
[jmesser@barringtonhills-il.gov](mailto:jmesser@barringtonhills-il.gov)



For several months the Zoning Board of Appeals has been considering a potential text amendment to the Village Code to more specifically regulate horse boarding, which is allowed under the Code's home occupation ordinance. On June 18, 2012 the ZBA conducted a public hearing on the proposed amendment at Countryside School during which many residents provided their thoughts on the matter. In addition the ZBA received many written comments regarding the proposed amendment. After considering the public comments, during its July 16, 2012 hearing the ZBA decided not to recommend the proposed text amendment for consideration by the Village Board of Trustees.



*Fun on horseback at the Lecompte Kalaway Landowner's Cup on September 8, 2012 at Oakwood Farm.*

# FALL CALENDAR

## Riding Club of Barrington Hills 75th Anniversary Party

*An Evening Under the Stars*

**Saturday, September 22, 2012**

Rolling Oaks Farm

160 W. Dundee Road • Barrington Hills, Illinois 60010

6 PM until Midnight

Cocktails, Dinner and Live Auction, Dancing to Ron Bedel

For almost a century, the Barrington Hills area has had a rich equestrian history. Seventy-five years ago, the Riding Club of Barrington Hills formed as a volunteer organization of neighbors committed to keeping our tradition as an equestrian community by preserving riding paths, facilities to care for horses, and open space. Through these actions, the Riding Club protects the beauty and serenity of the Village of Barrington Hills. This 75th anniversary event is open to all residents of the Village.

## Ignite the Night Saturday September 29, 2012

361 Bateman Road Barrington Hills  
(behind the Barrington Hills Riding Center)

5 to 10 pm

Blazing Bonfire \* Live Music \* Narrated Horse-Drawn Wagon Rides

Cookout Dinner \* Beer & Wine

Flashlight Tours \* Stargazing with telescopes \* Live Native Animals

Great Raffle!

Tickets available in advance at [www.fotfp.org](http://www.fotfp.org) or at the door.

Friends of the Forest Preserve is an independent non-profit organization founded in 1998 advocating for responsible management of the forest preserves of Cook County. Through advocacy, internships, and ecological restoration we promote responsible management of the more than 68,000 acres of forest preserve land.



## Illinois State Historical Marker Unveiling

**Saturday, Oct. 6**

This first-ever event will recognize sites of early settler history in Barrington Hills. The dedication ceremony will begin at 1 p.m. at the David Haeger Schoolhouse and Cemetery on Meadow Hill Road with a special honor for Otis Drake, a War of 1812 soldier who is interred here. The second historical marker unveiling will take place on the Ira C. Goodrich Homestead on Plum Tree Road at 3 p.m. Each large historical marker will have a text detailing its history.

## Fox River Valley Hunt / Cornwall Massbach Hounds Hunt Ball November 17, 2012

The Sanfilippo Estate

789 Plum Tree Road

Barrington Hills

Join us for an evening of dinner, dancing and tours of the estate's magnificent collections including an antique carousel and musical machines. Mark your calendars as last year's event was sold out. We look forward to celebrating with you in grand style. To attend, please contact hunt secretary Sue Schacht at [msjschacht@sbcglobal.net](mailto:msjschacht@sbcglobal.net) for more information.



Village of Barrington Hills  
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Barrington Hills, IL 60010-5199  
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The Village of Barrington Hills is pleased to offer a village-to-resident community alert notification system hosted by [Blackboard Connect®](#). The system is used to supplement our current newsletter, website and Twitter communications by sending residents messages via phone, e-mail, or text message. Topics include weather emergency news, crime alerts, and other critical communications. You can sign up to receive these public service alerts at the Village website [www.barringtonhills-il.gov](http://www.barringtonhills-il.gov) at the bottom of the home page.

## Directory

### Village of Barrington Hills

112 Algonquin Road  
Barrington Hills, IL 60010-5199  
**Web address with e-mail**  
[www.barringtonhills-il.gov](http://www.barringtonhills-il.gov)

**Phone**  
847-551-3000

**Village Hall Hours**  
Monday-Friday  
9:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.

**Director of Administration**  
Robert Kosin

### MEETINGS

#### Village Board

4th Monday of the month, 6:30 PM

#### Equestrian Commission

1st Monday of the month, 7:00 PM

#### E-911 ETSB

2nd Monday of the month, 6:30 PM

#### Plan Commission

2nd Monday of the month, 7:30 PM

#### Zoning Board of Appeals

3rd Monday of the month, 7:30 PM

#### Board of Health

3rd Wednesday of the month,  
7:30 PM

#### Communications Committee

3rd Monday of the month, 6:00 PM

#### Police Pension Board

4th Monday of the month, 9:00 AM

#### Heritage and Environs

4th Monday of the month, 10:00 AM

All meetings are held in the Alexander MacArthur Room of the Barrington Hills Village Hall.  
*Should you wish to comment at any of these meetings, your advance notice, by telephoning the office of the Village Clerk at 847-551-3000, is appreciated.*

### Board of Trustees

Robert G. Abboud  
*President*  
Fritz Gohl  
*Pro-Tem*  
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*Trustee*  
Patty Meroni  
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